

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously amended) An appliance base for a washing machine of the type having a wash tub and a mechanism extending below the wash tub, the base comprising:

a tray having a substantially flat rectangular bottom panel for supporting the washing machine; and

an insert disposed within the tray and having a centrally disposed opening for receiving and securing the washing machine mechanism, the insert being formed from a single cut and folded blank;

wherein the tray further comprises four corners and the insert further comprises four legs extending radially from the centrally disposed opening toward the four corners of the tray, each leg comprising a pair of downwardly angled panels connected along a first fold line extending from the centrally disposed opening, each downwardly angled panel sloping downward from the first fold line to an attachment panel that mates face-to-face with and is affixed to the bottom panel of the tray, each downwardly angled panel and the corresponding attachment panel forming an obtuse angle.
4. (Currently amended) The appliance base of claim 3 wherein the first fold lines are diagonally oriented with respect to ~~aligned with the diagonals of~~ the bottom panel.
5. (Previously amended) The appliance base of claim 4 wherein the attachment panels are connected to the downwardly angled panels along second fold lines.

6. (Previously amended) The appliance base of claim 5 wherein each downwardly angled panel is attached to an adjacent downwardly angled panel on an adjacent leg by a third fold line.
7. (Previously amended) The appliance base of claim 6 wherein each third fold line is aligned with an orthogonally bisecting line of the tray bottom panel.
8. (Currently amended) The appliance base of claim 2 3 wherein the downwardly angled panels define the centrally disposed opening.
9. (Original) The appliance base of claim 8 wherein the centrally disposed opening is raised above the tray bottom panel.
10. (Previously amended) The appliance base of claim 3 wherein the tray further comprises side panels connected to and extending upward from the bottom panel.
11. (Original) The appliance base of claim 10 further comprising members adhered to the tray and wherein the members, bottom panel and side panels define slots for receiving vertical support posts.
12. (Previously amended) The appliance base of claim 11 wherein the members have openings formed therein.

13. (Previously amended) The appliance base of claim 3 wherein the tray and insert are formed from corrugated board.

14. (Cancelled)